



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** October 30, 2009  
**District:** 4 - Oakland  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### BAY BRIDGE CLOSED FOR EYEBAR ASSESSMENT AND REPAIR

*Friday, October 30, 2009, 6:30 pm*

**Oakland** – Tuesday night, October 27, 2009, Caltrans District 4 closed both directions of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to repair the crossbar and two rods that came loose from the eyebar repair that afternoon. Structural engineers and inspectors are working with the contractor to repair and enhance the damaged eyebar.

The bridge is still closed until further notice, and will remain closed through the Friday evening commute and into Saturday. Motorists can get real time travel information from the 511.org Web site or by calling 511 from anywhere in the Bay Area. Transit enhancements, extra staffing at alternate toll bridges and traffic adjustments will continue. BART has agreed to run overnight trains on both Friday and Saturday nights.

As of 6:00 pm, traffic on the eastbound San Mateo-Hayward Bridge was delayed 35 minutes, while westbound was delayed 13 minutes.

Eastbound traffic on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge was delayed 6 minutes.

Traffic on the northbound Golden Gate Bridge was delayed 57 minutes.

Traffic on the eastbound Dumbarton Bridge was delayed 6 minutes.

Traffic on southbound U.S. 101 between San Mateo and Menlo Park was delayed 21 minutes.

At a 5:30 p.m. media briefing, Caltrans spokesman Bart Ney emphasized the following points:

- Crews are now grinding and rounding off potential areas of steel-on-steel contact.
- They continue to custom-fit the steel fittings.





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- As soon as those tasks are accomplished, the stressing of the steel rods can begin.
- Crews are working as quickly as they can, but safety and accuracy are paramount.

Inspectors outside of Caltrans will review the work and test the repair to provide additional assurance that the bridge is safe and that the repair is solid and safe. The Federal Highway Administration has also been invited to review these enhancements.

Metallurgists will take samples and conduct further analysis to determine the cause of the metal fatigue in the original design. This may take a couple of weeks.

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